

Once upon a time Fox and Coyote were friends. Today they are not. This story tells why.

Coyote ate all of his food. He needed to look for more. While he was hunting, he saw Fox. "Hello there, Fox," said Coyote. "Hello," said Fox, who was leaning against a mountain.

"I am hunting for food because I have eaten all I had," said Coyote. Coyote's eyes grew very big. He said, "I would like a big, fat hen to eat!" Fox said he could not catch the hen. He said he had to hold up the mountain. "Why do you have to hold up the mountain?" said Coyote. "Because it will crush us if I don't," said Fox. Coyote thought for a minute. He had an idea.

"I'll hold up the mountain while you catch the hen," said Coyote, who thought he had a smart idea. "Very well, my friend," said Fox with a sly grin. "Swap places with me while I fetch our dinner."

Coyote held up the mountain while Fox trotted off. Coyote waited all day. Fox did not come back at all! Coyote had been tricked by Fox. He moved away quickly from the mountain. The mountain did not fall. Coyote knew he should not have listened to Fox. "He will never trick me again!"

Many months later, Coyote saw Fox by the river. It was late in the evening. The moon was full and bright. "I won't listen to a word he says," thought Coyote.

Fox was staring down into the river. He did not seem to see Coyote. Coyote walked over to Fox and looked down into the river. There was a big, yellow spot. "I am waiting to catch this cheese," said Fox. "Yum!" thought Coyote. He loved cheese. Fox told his friend he could not reach it. His arms were too short.

"Your arms are longer," said Fox to Coyote. "I will hold you while you get the cheese."

"NO!" said Coyote, "not again!" Fox promised it was no trick. Fox lowered Coyote down and then dropped him into the water. Splash! It was not cheese. It was the moon! Coyote had been foxed again!

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